

The Seven Years War/ European Armies and Warfare

The War of Austrian Succession ended with the Peace of Aix-La-Chapelle.

THE AUSTRIAN WAR OF SUCCESSION



An uneasy peace held for almost eight years.

- Frederick the Great wanted to hold onto Silesia
- BUT, Maria Theresa was determined to gain her province-SILESIA- back.

The Seven Years War begins in America--

- The FRENCH had moved down from northern North America(modern Canada) to the west of the Appalachian Mts.-
- The American British Colonists felt this land was for them.
- British troops (including a young George Washington) tried to take a French fort in the Ohio valley.
- The British were pushed back in July 1755.

- France
- Great Britain
- Territories ceded by France to Great Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713
- Spain
- Cities
- ✦ Forts

Pacific Ocean

Hudson Bay

CANADA

Newfoundland

ACADIA

Atlantic Ocean

Gulf of Mexico

Fort Bourbon

Fort Dauphin

Fort La Reine

Upper Country

Fort Saint-Pierre

Fort Michillimakinac

Fort Beauharnois

Fort Détroit

Upper Louisiana (Illinois Country)

Fort Orléans

Fort Saint-Louis

Fort de Chartres

LOUISIANA

Lower Louisiana

Fort Rosalie

Baton-Rouge (1720)

La Nouvelle-Orléans (1718)

Fort Toulouse

Mobile (1702)

Biloxi (1699)

Tadoussac (1600)

Québec (1608)

Trois-Rivières (1634)

Montréal (1642)

Fort Chambly

Fort Frontenac

Fort Duquesne

Boston (1630)

New York (1626)

Philadelphia (1681)

Baltimore (1729)

Charleston (1680)

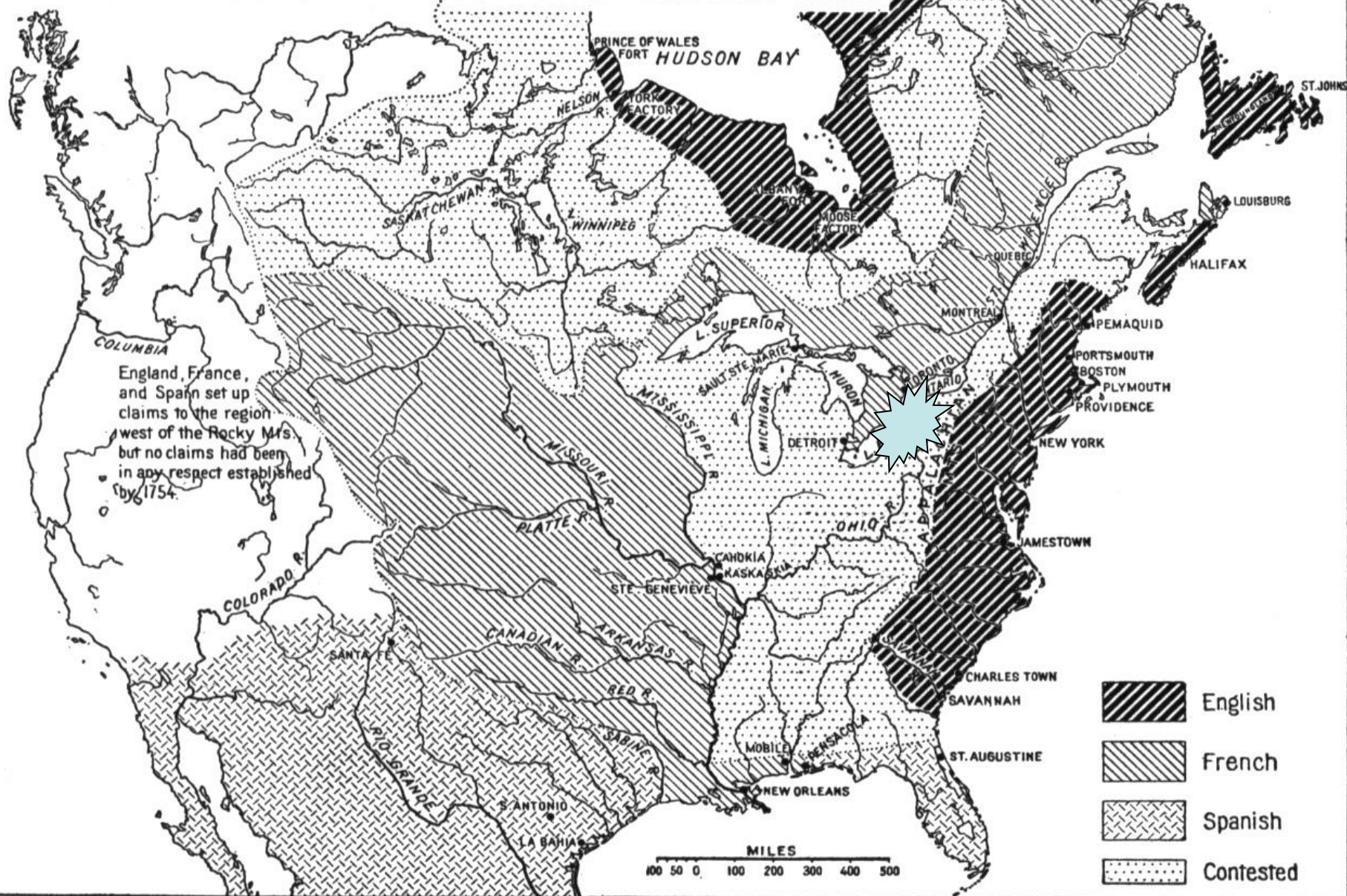
Savannah (1733)

Plaisance (1662)

Louisbourg (1719)

Port-Royal (1605)

BOUNDARIES AS CLAIMED IN 1754 AT BEGINNING OF FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR





*I could hear the bullets whizzing close by. . .and
believe me when I tell you that there is something
sweet in that sound.*

...George Washington--

When hostilities break out in North America, **England** decides to seek protection from the **French** in EUROPE.

They get Prussia to guarantee the neutrality of Hanover.

REMEMBER-The House of Hanover rules
England –The Georges

◦



This treaty prompts Austria and France to form an alliance—something that Kaunitz (Austrian's minister) had been thinking about already.



In France, Louis XV and his mistress, Madame de Pompadour also agreed that this was a good thing for their country.



This is called the diplomatic revolution,
or the “reversal of the alliances.”

NEW ALLIANCES

-BRITAIN and PRUSSIA

VS.

-AUSTRIA, FRANCE, AND RUSSIA

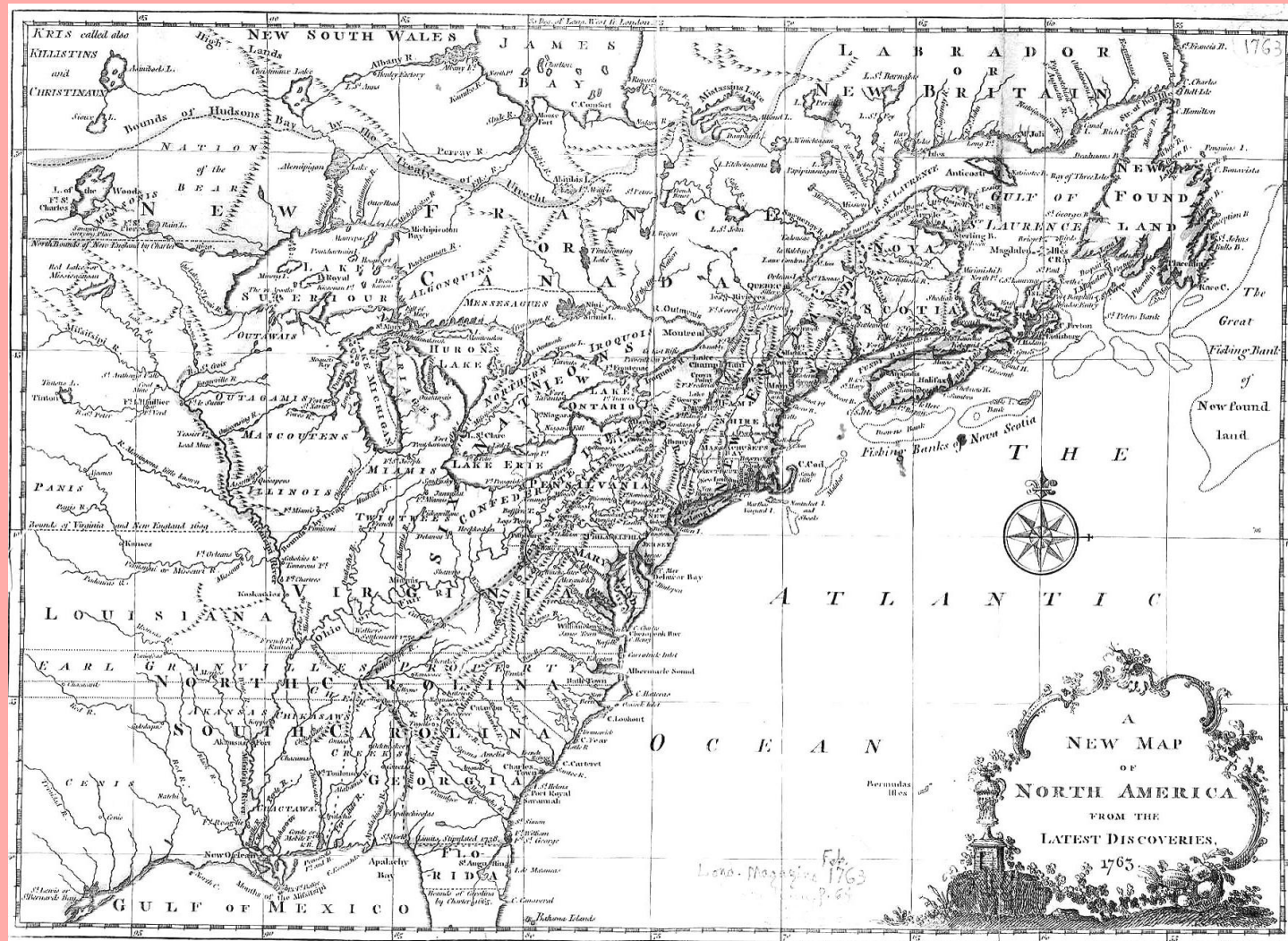
Austria and France had been ancient enemies—now they were on the same side! The French found this alliance with Austria to be distasteful, beneath them. This new alliance was extremely unpopular for Austria and France were rivals.

Russia also decides to ally itself
with France and Austria—♪

It could keep Prussia from
expanding in the East ♪



Frederick the Great's only ally was England
—and England would be quite busy with its
territories in the New World.



The war begins in Europe with Frederick's invasion of Bohemia—when he is pushed back, he then invades Saxony.



At first, Frederick was stunningly successful.
His greatest battles include:

The battle
of
Leuthen,
Prussian
Victory.



Battle of Rossbach, Prussian Victory.



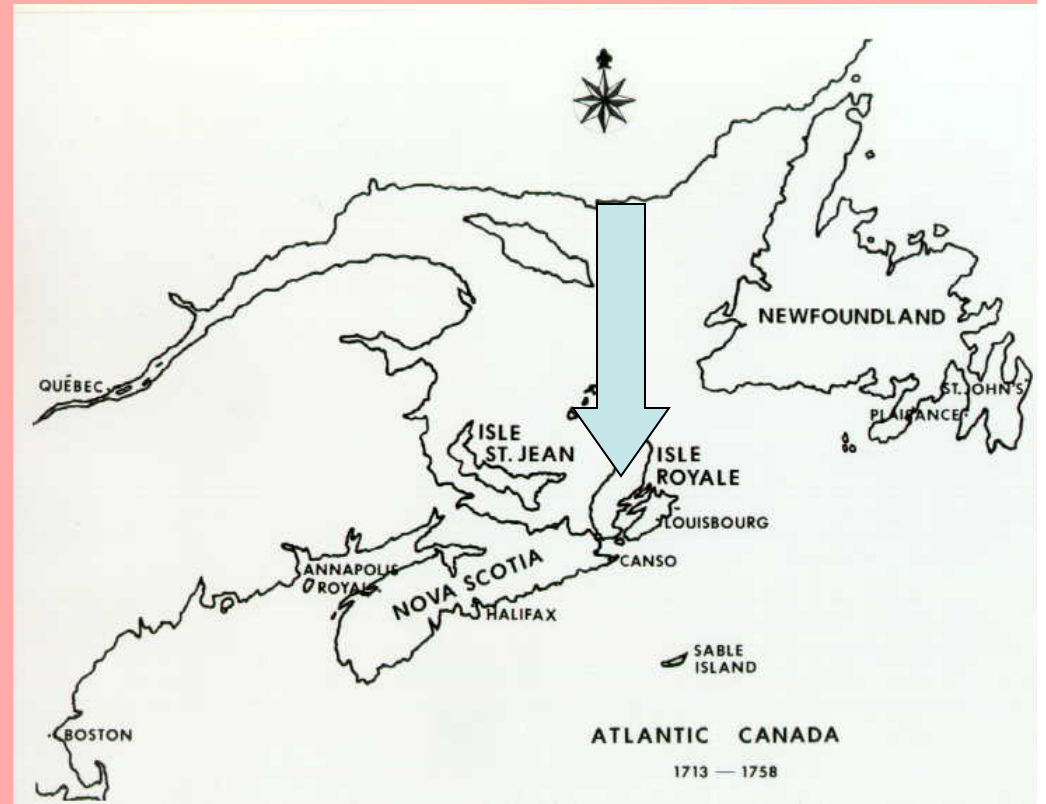
British in the War

- William the Pitt-the Elder-decides to put resources in North American battles to protect colonial empire
- British navy would be their best weapon to defeat the French

In the new world, the French were successful in seeking the alliance of most of the Indian leaders—hence, this war is called the French Indian War in North America.



In 1758, Louisburg, the great fort that had been captured and returned by the English during the War of Austrian Succession, was captured once again.



FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR BATTLES



This time, the English kept it for good!♪



And in 1759, French Canada (Quebec)
falls to the English in the great battle
called the Plains of Abraham.



The Plains of Abraham, near Quebec.
Engraved from a drawing by J. B. B. B.



Both Generals Wolfe and Montcalm die in the battle, but the English General Wolfe, won the battle.



George Washington once said that the American War of Independence may have had a different outcome if Wolfe had survived...



England also captured the Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique and the French Slave nations in Africa.



Both these islands, as well as others, were highly desired because of their sugar cane plantations.



Meanwhile in Europe. . .



Frederick the Great begins to be defeated—
after all, he is fighting against the super-
powers with little help from the English.



In November of 1759, an entire Prussian Army is captured by the Austrians! 13,000 men surrender. . .



In October, 1760, the Russians take Berlin.



Frederick's situation becomes critical when the British prime minister, William Pitt is thrown out of office, and Britain's parliament will no longer send money to help the Prussian cause.



Just when it seems that Frederick is
finished,



An incredible event occurs. His enemy, the Russian Tsarina Elizabeth dies. Her heir, Peter, had been a fanatical admirer of Prussia ever since he was a young boy.



He immediately stops fighting Prussia,
makes peace with Frederick, forms an
alliance with Prussia, and gives back all its
territories.

Now, with Russia allied with Prussia, it was left to Austria and France to fight on. . .



France had faced the fall of Louisburg, the
defeat of Quebec, and other defeats in
India. . .

India? Yes,
let's turn to
the Indian
phase of the
seven years
war before
we wrap
things up.





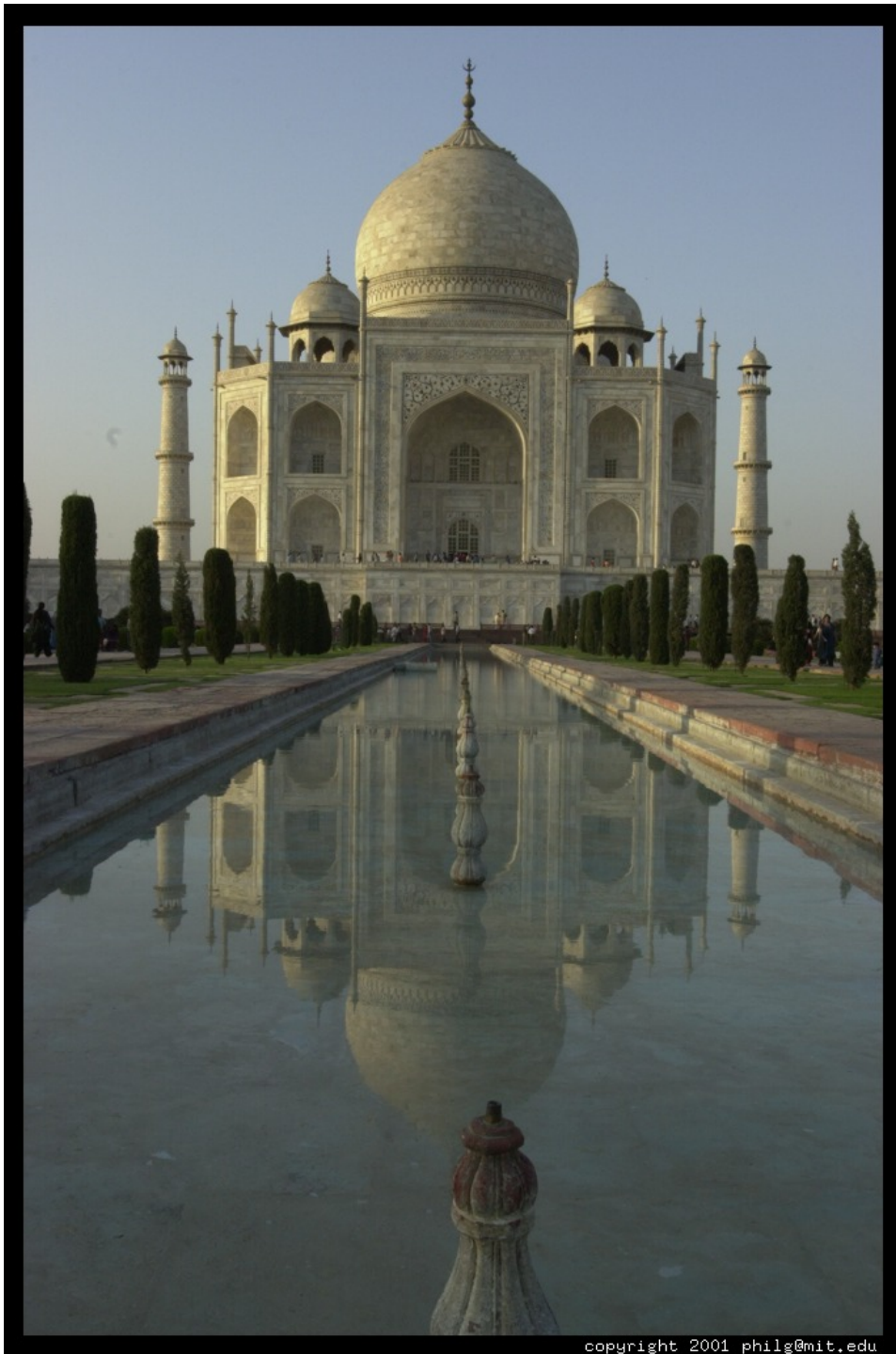
India was a country that was divided between Muslims and Hindus, a source of great internal conflict and civil war.



An exotic land, filled with diamonds,
gold, tigers, spices and silks.







The diamond mines of Golconda were legendary.





The coastal towns were easy pickings for the Portuguese, French, and British.



Forts were built to protect trading interests.
Local soldiers called sepoys were often used
to provide manpower.

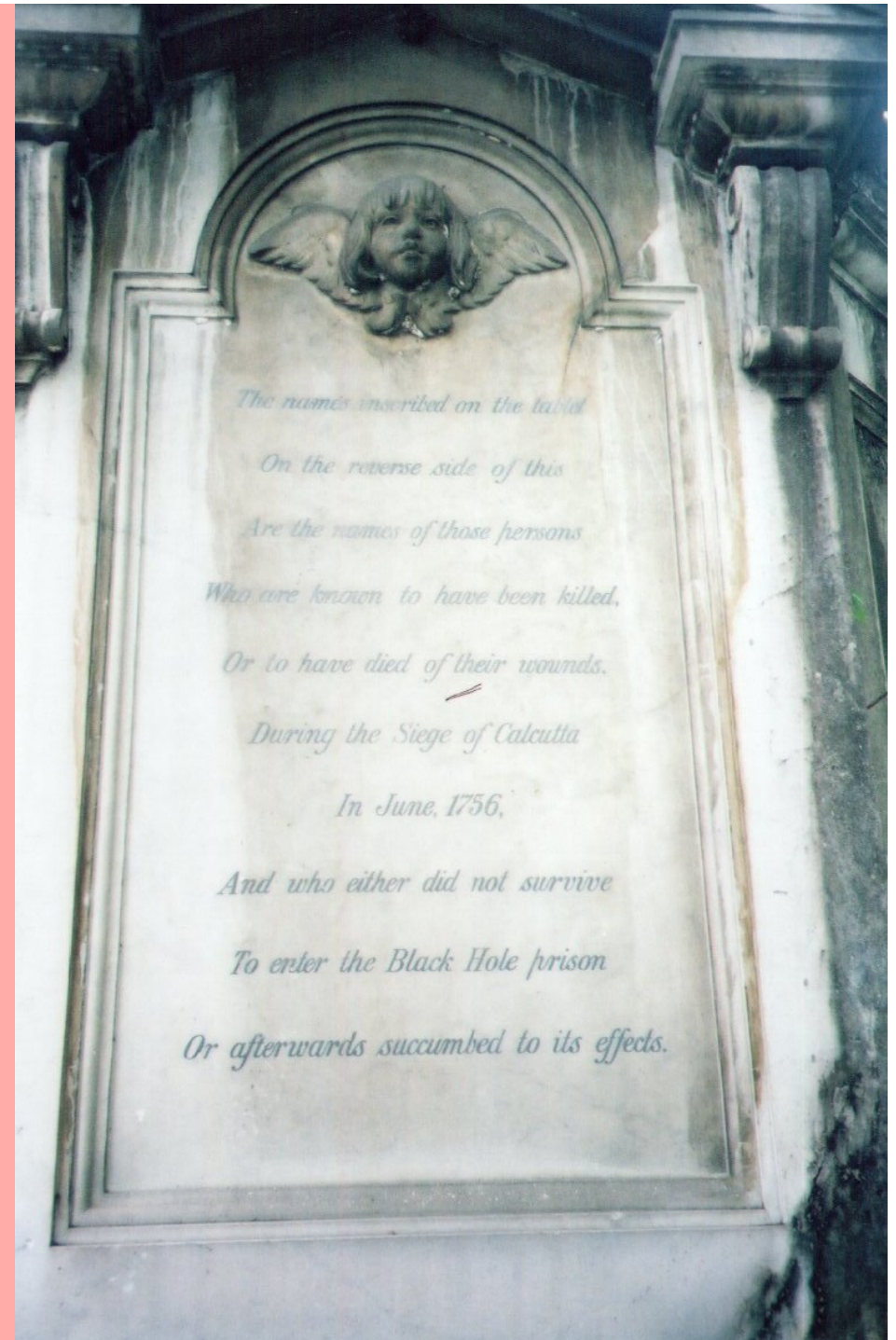


Robert Clive was the legendary British Leader who moved on the French forts in the Bengal area of India.



The French were favored by the Muslim leader Suraja Dowla, who, when capturing the city, shut up 145 Englishman in a small room, overnight without windows.

This was the black
hole of Calcutta.



Clive used elephants and sepoy to defeat the French at the battle of Plassey.



It is important to remember that the British
“conquest” of India could never had
happened without the extensive support of
its Navy—who cut off the French from her
Indian Forts.



Europe, again—well, to sum up:.

- Russia was now aligned with Prussia
- Austria and France were financially devastated.
- England had the upper hand in the New World
- England was defeating French interests in India.

Ok, let's head for peace talks
—after how many deaths?

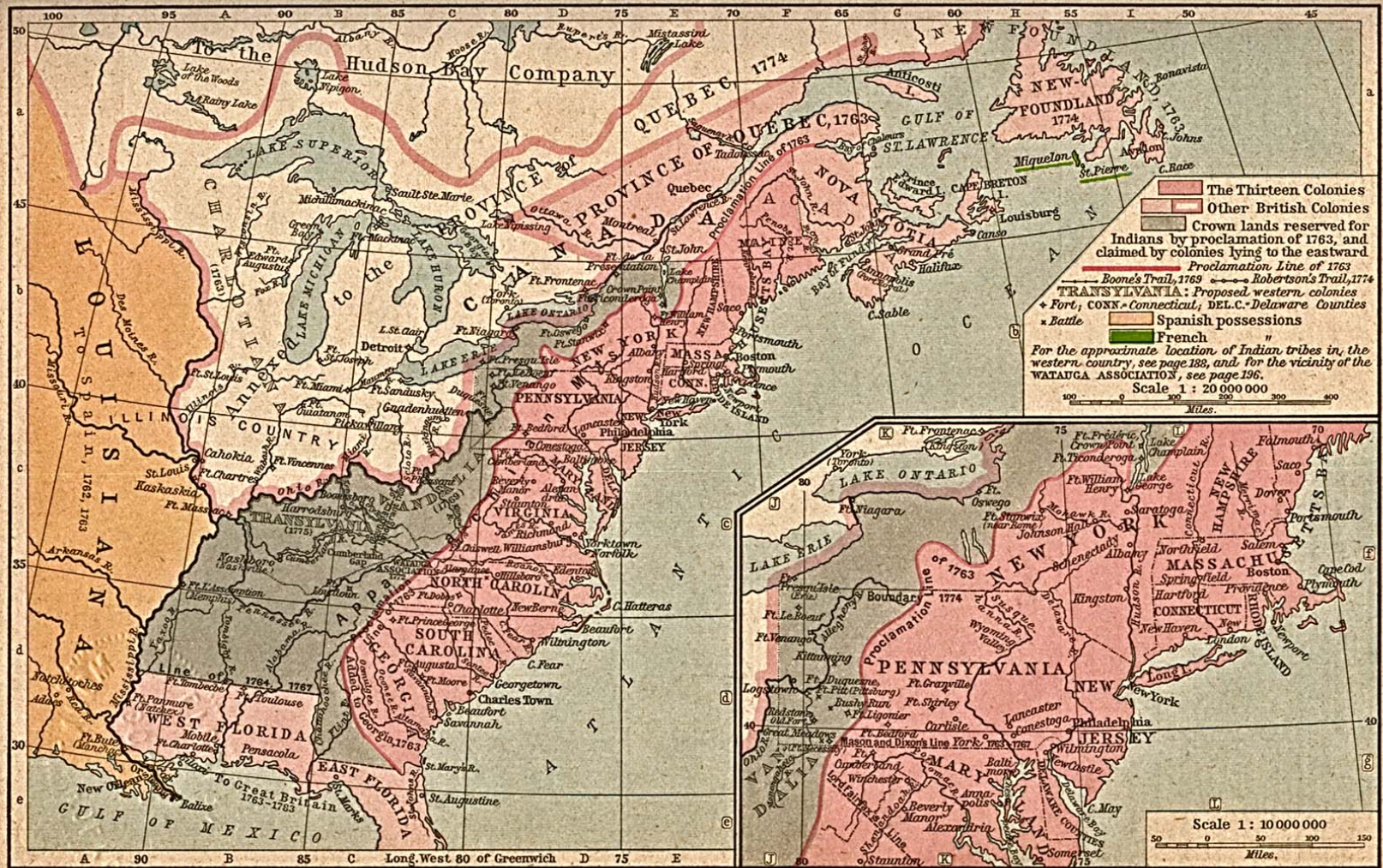
BETWEEN 1 AND 1.2 MILLION
DEATHS.

Peace talks are held in Paris-TREATY of
PARIS- England gains the most. Prussia
does not lose any territory.

The French will lose almost all of North
America except a few Caribbean Islands

For the British and America it was a decisive victory. Treaty of Paris 1763

The British Colonies in North America, 1763—1775.



Frederick the Great and Maria Theresa went back home and ruled their countries as enlightened monarchs for the next two decades.



France continued to squander its wealth and failed to reform its government.



The Seven Years War cost France more than twice any previous war.

In fact, it was Etienne de Silhouette who had the job of forecasting the depressing budget. Crippling taxes were laid on the French, while Silhouette practiced a favorite hobby in the salons of the aristocrats. Can you guess what that hobby was?



EUROPEAN ARMIES AND WARFARE

Armies-18th century

- Most nations had a standing army
- Examples:
 - France-300,000
 - Prussia-200,000
 - Austria-282,000
 - Russia-290,000
- Britain-had no standing army-relied on mercenaries-remember NAVAL strength

Composition of Armies-18th C

- Officers-came from the upper classes-landed aristocracy
- Middle class could enter middle ranks of the officer corp
- Rank and file officers came from the lower classes
- Prussia and Russia conscripted (drafted) lower class peasants others did not want to waste farmers

Composition of Armies-18th C

- Many armies were foreign troops-from Switzerland or HRE members
- Some were vagabonds or unemployed pressed into service

Navies

- Britain and the Dutch had strong navies
- Britain 174 warships/80,000 sailors
- Conditions on ship poor-diseases-scurvy and yellow fever and were pressed into service

Nature of Warfare

- Not driven by religious wars
- Wars were expensive-think before war
- Maneuvering-guerilla warfare and different tactics instead of direct battles
- Withdrawal without being captured
- Still many battles in 18th c as shown by Seven Years War